non-participation of major buyers like M/s. Brooke Bond and M/s. Lipton.

(e) With the concerted effort of the Central Government, the Tea Board and the State Government of Assam, M/s. Brooke Bond and Lipton have since started operating at Guwahati auction.

Smuggling of Gold and Silver from Pakistan

38. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that gold and Silver from Pakistan are smuggled freely along Indo-Pak border in the State of Rajasthan;

	Value of seizure
1989	
1990 (up to Nov.)	

The almost 1000 kms. long Rajasthan Pakistan border consists of vast tracks of sand and sparse population and the nature of the terrain makes the task of the anti-smuggling formations quite formidable. In order to strengthen the anti-smuggling efforts in the Rajasthan sector a new Sub-collectorate with Headquarters at Jodhpur and Divisions at Jaisalmer, Barmer, Sri-ganganagar, Bikaner and Jodhpur have been created in January, 1989 for exclusively combating smuggling and to act as a second line of defence to the Border Security Force which is deployed on the border and whose personnel have also been delegated certain powers under the Customs Law.

All theSe formations/Agencies remain alert against smuggling activities and are actively assisted by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and Narcotics Control Bureau. The requirements of equipment of the operational units are being constantly monitored and they have already been provided with vehicles, metal detectors, night vision binaculars and fire arms

The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and close co-ordination is being maintained with all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling.

(b) whether it is a fact that anti-smuggling wing of the Central Excise and Customs Department has been functioning under severe constraints; and

(c) if So, what steps Government propose to check the regular smuggling of gold etc. along the Rajasthan border.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH); (a) to (c) Available reports indicate that the Rajasthan sector of the Indo-Pakistan border continues to be sensitive to smuggling. This is confirmed hy the figures of seizures of contraband goods and persons apprehended in the Rajasthan sector.

Unearthing of Money Laundering Racket in Sikkim fey Income Tax Officials

39. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY; SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item that appeared **in the English** daily ".'

Independent' dated the 3rd December, 1990, published from Bombay under the heading "Indian firms in shady rackets of ~ money laundering in Sikkim" **P**

(b) if so, -whether the Income Tax Department have taken any action against the firms involved; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative; what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, sir.

(c) Investigations have revealed that certain business concerns have been engaged in laundering their undisclosed income through individuals and companies registered in Sikkim since Indian Income tax Laws were not applicable to Sikkim at the reve-vant time.

Notices under section 148 of the Income tax Act, have been issued to bring to tax income escaping assessment in respect of certain companies incorporated in Sikkim as the enquiries showed that the control and management were wholly in Delhi. These proceedings have been stayed by the Sikkim High Court.

नागपुर में बंबई उच्च न्यायालय की एक न्यायपीठ की स्थापना

*40. श्री विश्वास राव रामराव पाटिल: क्या विधि और न्याय मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने नागपुर में बम्बई उच्च न्यायालय की एक न्यायपीठ की स्थापना करने के लिए कोई प्रस्ताव केन्द्रीय सरकार को प्रस्तुत किया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में क्या ब्यौरा है ; और

(ग) केन्द्रीय सरकार की उस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री साथ में न्याय मंत्रालय का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (डा० सुब्रह्मयन स्वामी) : (क) मुंबई उच्च न्यायालय की एक स्थायी न्यायपीठ 1-5-1960 से नागपुर में कार्य कर रही है ।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

Refund of Extra Excise Duty Collected

41. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMARAO PATIL:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the excise and customs duties refund issue; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether the resentments expressed by the Members of Parliament during the last Session of Parliament about the unjust refund to excise duty to the industrialists which was not due to them but to the consumers has been taken into consideration while taking a decision in the matter; and

(c) what are the figures of such excise duty repaid during 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 and how much of this amount was paid to each party along with their names during each year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The Govern-